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RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN CENTRAL AFRICA AND THE VALLEY OF THE CONGO.

ADDRESS

BY

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President of the Society.

My annual addresses heretofore, with a single exception, have been devoted to an account of the geographical work of the world—a practice I should have continued but for the fact that that work has now become so extensive and involves such a quantity of details, that a complete yearly account of it would, I fear, prove too technical as well as too monotonous for a public address. I have therefore chosen another subject—the recent developments in Central Africa and the Valley of the Congo—a subject of present interest, which is not only geographical, but it has also a commercial bearing.

At the establishment of this Society and for many years afterwards we placed at the head of our publications the maxim that “*Geographical exploration is commercial progress*,” and it is in the spirit of that maxim that I have selected this subject, for the geographical exploration that is now going on across the whole of Central Africa from the mouth of the Congo to the eastern coast will be followed by very important commercial results, and already indicates the necessity of adopting such a policy now, on the part of our Government, as the nature of our future interests and that of other maritime nations may demand.

The subject was recently before the Chamber of Commerce in this city. I was invited to address the Chamber upon it, and being desirous of pointing out the impor-

tance of our future relations with Central Africa, and the interest to us of what is now going on there, I felt, as I then expressed myself, very much like one rising in a body of merchants in London, about the year 1621, to impress upon them the importance of a settlement that had just then been made on the coast of North America, at a place called Plymouth, who, had he suggested the possibility that that infant settlement, in connection with those previously made upon the Island of Manhattan, and at Jamestown, might, in less than 250 years, increase to a great nation of 50,000,000 of people, he would probably have been regarded as a fit subject for an institution, which, a few years before, had been established in London, called Bedlam.

In addressing the Chamber of Commerce, therefore, upon the importance to this country and other maritime nations of what has taken place in Central Africa within the past few years, in the region of the Congo, I invoked the benefit of this illustration, if what I said to them of our interest in this newly developing part of the world appeared to them somewhat ideal or extravagant. The same precaution may not be necessary before a body of geographers, but nevertheless I invoke the benefit, here also, of this illustration, and that what I have to say may be more readily understood, permit me to open the subject by a few remarks upon the condition of Africa in the past.

It is a striking fact, that although Africa was the seat of the earliest civilization known to us—that of Egypt—and although one of the greatest commercial nations of antiquity flourished upon its northern shores—the Carthagenians—it is, of all the continents, the one that has made the least progress in civilization. There has been, however, a satis-

factory reason for this. Although Africa has a long and a continuous line of coast—for it is almost an island, being separated from Asia only by the narrow Isthmus, through which the Suez Canal has been cut—it is, throughout the whole of its coast line, so poorly provided with bays, harbors and navigable rivers, that it has remained for centuries practically isolated. The want of deeply penetrating inlets from the sea, and of good navigable rivers flowing from the interior to the ocean, has prevented the great bulk of the vast population of that Continent, estimated at the present day by statisticians at more than 200,000,000, or double that of America, from having intercourse with the civilized nations of the world, and consequently, up to a comparatively recent period, a large portion of the interior of this great Continent, which is more than three times as large as Europe, has remained wholly unknown.

The contrast which our own country presents, in this respect, will illustrate why it has been rapidly settled since its discovery, less than four centuries ago, whilst Africa, during the same period, has remained almost stationary.

To limit the illustration to the Atlantic border of the United States alone, we have flowing into the sea, from the Bay of Fundy to the western extremity of the Gulf of Mexico, no less than 105 rivers, together with numerous bays, harbors and penetrating inlets from the ocean. Many of those rivers are navigable far into the interior, and some of them are of great length, serving as water arteries over the whole country, from East to West and from North to South, facilitating intercourse and the transportation of merchandise to nearly every part of it.

The physical geography of Africa is the reverse of this. It has, as we know from the researches of the past few

years, a somewhat extensive water system of great lakes and large rivers, but the navigation of nearly all its rivers is impeded by cataracts, rapids and other obstructions, which prevent them from serving as waterways into the interior. All the rivers on the east coast on the Indian ocean, from Cape Corientes, about the 24th parallel of south latitude, to the upper part of the Red sea, and on the Atlantic, from the tropic of Capricorn to the Bight of Benin, are obstructed in this way, preventing traffic by water from the coast inward for any considerable distance.

But in addition to this, other causes have contributed to the isolation of this great continent.

The Egyptian and Carthaginian civilization, which grew up upon the shores of the Mediterranean, could not penetrate far southward because the vast Sahara, Libian and Nubian deserts, which stretch from the Atlantic to the Red sea, prevented communication, in this direction with the rest of Africa. Nor could the countries along the coast be successfully settled, as the United States seaboard was, because both on the East and on the West Coast for nearly a hundred miles inward from the sea, there is a malarious belt, which is not only injurious to the health of the white races, but even the natives of the interior, when they settle upon it, undergo physical degradation.

The Portuguese, who were the discoverers, settled upon the eastern and western coasts, and still retain their settlements in certain parts. But during the four centuries that have intervened, they have accomplished little for the permanent benefit of Africa. They introduced the sugar cane, the vine and some other productions, and a few Portuguese explorers, within the past two centuries, have traversed the interior to the mouth of the Zambesi, on the East

Coast, and as far northward as the great equatorial lakes, but the world learned little of the information they may have gathered, and their journeys or explorations had no permanent effect in advancing the civilization of Africa.

In the early settlement of the Western Coast, and especially after the discovery of the Congo, with the importance of which, at the time, the Portuguese were much impressed, they made great efforts. They extended their commercial operations far into the interior, erected chains of forts for the protection of their settlements, and built many cathedrals, churches, monasteries and colleges, in an earnest effort to Christianize and civilize the natives. All this, however, was followed by no permanent results, and their colonial establishments gradually sank into decay, from two causes—the slave trade and the superior advantages of Brazil as a colonial settlement. Some of their establishments they abandoned altogether, and in those which they have kept up but little progress has been made.

The Portuguese have been the chief supporters of the slave trade; they were, in 1503, the first to begin it, and they have been the last to adhere to it. It continued, on the West Coast, until 1868, only sixteen years ago, and was then formally abandoned by them, only because they were compelled by the cruisers of the civilized nations of the world to give up this infamous traffic. To support it, raids had to be made farther and farther into the interior, and wherever the slave-trader goes in Africa the country becomes a wilderness.

Their idea of religion in connection with this traffic, when we think of the barbarities attending the capture of the slaves, the manner in which they were transported to the coast, and the horrors of the middle passage, may be illus-

trated by a circumstance mentioned by Monteiro, one of the most recent writers upon the Portuguese possessions on the West Coast.

“To within a very few years,” he says, “there existed a marble arm-chair on the wharf at the Custom House, at Loanda, where the bishop, in the slave-trading times was wont to sit, to baptize and bless the batches of poor wretches as they were sent off, in barge-loads, to the vessels in the harbor.”* Instead, therefore, of advancing, they have retarded civilization. Jacob Bright said of them in the British Parliament, when the question of their claim to the Lower Congo was under consideration, that their presence on the African Continent had been everywhere and always a curse. Lord Mayo, who has visited the West Coast, in his condemnation of them, is equally expressive, declaring, in a recent publication, that their “rule and exactions bring to all parts of this vast continent misery and slavery wherever they put their heel down.”

It must, however, be said, in justice to the Portuguese, that they had a great deal to contend with in the climate of the West Coast, that they have been, in their African colonies, generally hospitable to strangers, and kind masters to the Africans there who were about them, treating them, not only with kindness, but even equality; in which respect they differ very much from their neighbors, the Dutch of South Africa, who have been hard masters, exacting from the negro the largest amount of labor for the smallest amount of remuneration.

The merit of the Dutch, however, in South Africa is that they have developed the country, because they became per-

* Monteiro's *Angola*, vol. I, p. 68.

manent agricultural settlers ; and whatever has been done for South Africa, in Cape Colony, in Natal, in the Orange Free State and in the Transvaal, has been done by the Boers, as the descendants of the Dutch are called. The English, who rule over a large part of South Africa, since they acquired possession of the country at and about the Cape of Good Hope, at the beginning of the present century, have not, as a race, been settlers, but generally adventurers, who have gone there for what they could bring away—a class of little value to any country

This, ladies and gentlemen, is a brief statement of what Africa has been. Those present of my own age will recall, that when we were young, the centre of this great continent was a blank upon the map. The term of “The Dark Continent” was applied to it, as expressive alike of the races that dwelt there and of our total ignorance then respecting it. This is a map of Africa published in this city by Burr about half a century ago. Upon it, from the Bight of Biafra, in the Gulf of Guinea, and just about the equator, there is represented, as stretching nearly across the whole of the Continent a lofty range of imaginary mountains, very appropriately called *The Mountains of Moon*, and all below this in the interior, to Cape Colony, on the thirtieth parallel of south latitude, is marked “unexplored region.” If you look at this map, published by Stanford in 1877, and this one of Central Africa, published last year by Dr. A. Chavanne, of Vienna, you will see how extensive and even minute our information is now over a very large part of this region.

During the first half of the present century, there was considerable exploration in North Africa, especially up the Nile, and in that part of Western Africa lying between

the Sahara and the Gulf of Guinea, through which the Niger flows. But the great work has been done during the last quarter of a century by a series of journeys and explorations over the whole continent, which has resulted in more knowledge respecting it than had been ascertained for centuries previously. This has embraced the explorations in the north and through the deserts by Barth, Nachtigal, Rohlfs and Schweinfurth. In Central Africa the journeys and explorations for thirty years of Livingston (1843-1873), from Cape Colony to near the equator, and from the Indian ocean to the Atlantic, comprising about one-third of the whole continent, which made known the great water system of lakes and rivers that exist below the equator. Du Chaillu's journeys, of 8,000 miles, from the West Coast in the region of the equator (1856 and 1865), Burton, Speke, Grant and Baker's discoveries (1858-1864), or rather re-discovery of the three great lakes, Tanganyka, Ukerewe and Mwutan, and the fact that the last two, which the English call the Victoria and Albert Nyanzas, where the long-sought sources of the Nile. The journey of Commander Cameron across the whole continent (1873-1875), from Zanzibar on the east to Benguela on the West Coast, and the reverse journey across it by a Portuguese explorer, Major Serpa Pinto (1877-1878), from Benguela to the Transvaal and Durban ; Stanley's exploration of the Congo (1877), from Nyangwe to its mouth, on the Atlantic, and the journeys and explorations of Holub, Elton, the Marquis de Campiegne, de Brazza, Thomson and many others ; the result of which has been to make known a large part of Africa, especially from the equator to Cape Colony, and to remove very erroneous impressions that had previously prevailed respecting the interior of the Continent.

The water system of the lakes and rivers was found to be more extensive and available than had been supposed, and that the great interior or heart of the Continent, with the exception of the Kalihara desert, at the south, was a fruitful and salubrious country.

The fact that so large a part of the interior of Africa was of this description; that it was inhabited by a very superior race of savages, upon whom the slave traders, in their terrible raids, were constantly encroaching, drew, in 1876, the attention of His Majesty, the King of the Belgians, to this dark continent, and to the consideration of what could be done to open it up to civilization. His Majesty, like the present Emperor of Brazil, is an accomplished geographer, and being profoundly impressed with the importance of some general movement of this nature, he addressed letters to the geographers of the different countries of the world, and to distinguished African travellers, inviting them, as his guests, to a conference in his palace in Brussels, in September, 1876. He did me the honor to invite me by a personal letter to come, but my judicial duties at that time, much to my regret, prevented my accepting the invitation.

The conclusion reached at this conference was, that the best way to bring the interior of Africa into communication with the civilized world was by a systematic and scientific exploration of it, especially across the heart of the continent from the East to the West Coast, so as to facilitate intercourse, and prepare the way for trade, commerce and the civilization that would follow; that to accomplish this it would be necessary to establish a series of stations or settlements, from the East to the West Coast, below or in the vicinity of the equator; and for this purpose what is now

known as the International African Association was formed in 1877, composed of representatives from Belgium, Germany, Austria, Spain, the United States, France, Italy, the Netherlands and Switzerland. The work of carrying out its objects was intrusted to an Executive Committee, of which His Majesty the King of the Belgians is the head.

This Executive Committee consisted of three, representing the English-speaking, the Germanic and the Latin races. It was composed of Sir Bartle Frere, Dr. Nachtigal (the African Explorer), M. de Quartrefages (of the French Institute). On the appointment, however, of Sir Bartle Frere as Governor of the Cape Colonies, he resigned, and was replaced by the Hon. Henry S. Sandford, of Florida, our former Minister to Belgium.

The first movement was the establishment of a line of stations from the eastern coast, opposite Zanzibar, to Lake Tanganyka, a distance, in a direct line, of about 450 miles, and the founding at the end of these of a permanent settlement on the lake called Karema, the successful accomplishment of which involved a large expenditure of money, and the loss of the lives of several members of the expedition from the great labor and fatigue undergone.

How much has been accomplished by this alone will be apparent when I mention that Burton, the discoverer of the lake, was six months in his journey from the coast to it; that it took Cameron, afterwards, eleven months to make this journey, and that it is now made in a month and a half.

Whilst this was going on on the eastern coast, Stanley made his great discovery, that the large river, the Lualaba of Livingstone, was, in fact, the Upper Congo, Stanley having followed it from Nyangwe, where Livingstone left

it, and proceeded along and upon it in its northerly course beyond the equator, and to the second parallel of north latitude, where he found that the river made a great curve to the west, and then flowed southwesterly, with a varying width of from two to ten miles, until it empties into the Atlantic. The source of this great river is a large lake, discovered by Livingstone (Lake Bangweolo), on a high plateau, which extends to 12° south latitude, and near the southern border of which lake this greatest of African explorers afterwards died.

The whole length of the river is put by Stanley at 2,900 miles, making it one of the largest rivers in the world ; and the entire area drained by it he computes to be about 860,000 square miles.

After this important discovery of the extent of the Congo—that it was, in fact, the great artery of Central Africa—another organization, the Congo Committee or Association (Comité d'Etude du Haut Congo) was formed in Brussels, in 1878, to utilize this discovery by establishing regular communication between the upper and lower parts, as well as along the whole course of the river, and to connect it, as a means of communication across the continent, with Karema, on Lake Tanganyka, and the line of stations from there to the East Coast, so as ultimately to establish regular and rapid lines of communication from the mouth of the Congo, on the West Coast, across the entire width of the Continent, to Zanzibar, on the East Coast. For the past five years the whole of the operations of this Committee have been carried on under the direction of Mr. Stanley. Both committees, though distinct organizations, are, in effect, practically the same, as they both aim to accomplish one object, in different parts of this great line of communi-

cation, which they mutually carry on under one general flag, which they have adopted as the symbol of the combined organizations. Their design is not to engage in any commercial operations, but in those which are purely scientific, geographical and philanthropic ; so that, to use the language of a recent writer, "Every traveller, whatever may be his nationality ; every missionary, whatever may be his faith ; every legitimate trader, whatever may be his commerce, may claim assistance (at the stations) and be certain of meeting with hospitality."

To secure the right to this great pathway for civilization, and that protection to life and property which is indispensable in the use of it, *seventy-nine* treaties have been made with independent chiefs, the tribal sovereignties being numerous over so large a space in this part of Africa, these treaties covering two thousand miles of the river banks of the Congo and neighboring streams ; and *twenty-two* stations, or settlements, have been established, the principal ones extending from the lower part of the Congo to the equator, a distance of about 700 miles.

The river is, at its mouth, six miles in width, and 150 fathoms in depth, and from there to Vivi, the first station or settlement of these Associations, the distance is 115 miles, upon which the Association have two steamers. Seven miles above Vivi the river is obstructed by thirty cataracts, or rapids, for about forty miles, to overcome which a road has been constructed for land travel from Vivi to Insangalia, a distance of fifty-two miles, from which the river is navigable again for seventy-three miles, and upon which the Association has placed a steamer to Manyanga. From Manyanga the river is again obstructed for ninety-five miles, along which another road is constructed to the

fourth station, or settlement, Leopoldville, upon Stanley pool, 135 miles from Manyanga, where the river forms a great basin, twenty-five miles long and sixteen miles wide, with seventeen islands upon it; and from this point, Leopoldville, named in honor of the King of Belgium, there is an uninterrupted navigation through a magnificent and thickly peopled country for the long distance of 940 miles, upon which the Association have now placed three steamers, having seven altogether on the river. The river is again obstructed, below the equator, for sixty-two miles, at what is known as Stanley falls, after which there is uninterrupted navigation for the very considerable distance of 220 miles. At the end of this, the river is obstructed by a fall, fifty miles below Nyangwe, and by another fifty miles above it. Beyond this, the river, to its source, in Lake Bangweolo, is but imperfectly known, and is supposed not to be navigable.

I have thought it necessary to be thus particular in describing the river, to show that this great water artery of Central Africa is navigable for at least 1,400 miles, and to explain what has been done to facilitate travel, by the construction of roads along those parts of the river where it is obstructed by cataracts or rapids.

It is necessary, that I should now say a few words respecting the country through which the Congo flows, and which is drained by it and its affluents.

The region usually regarded as Central Africa is that portion of the interior extending from the desert of Sahara in the north, to the Kalahara desert in the south, and which lies between the 10th and 40th parallels of east longitude, which is computed to embrace an area of about six millions of square miles. It is in the eastern portion of

this that the great water system I have referred to, of lakes and rivers, exists ; of which the Zambesi, emptying into the Indian ocean, the Nile into the Mediterranean, and the Congo into the Atlantic, are the greatest rivers. The large portion of Africa extending along the western coast from Sierra Leone to the mouth of the River Ogowé, below the equator, and from thence across the interior as far as the western shores of the Victoria Nyanza, is a vast belt of forest, the vegetation here being exceedingly prolific and dense from the tropical heat and great rain-fall throughout this region. Below this great wooded belt to the Congo, and further south, there is an open savannah country of large grassy spaces and park-like grouping of trees, which is fertile, salubrious and densely populated by, as I have said, a very superior race of savages, who are handsomely formed, exceedingly vigorous, industrious, and who exhibit, for savages, considerable skill in handicraft and in agriculture. This is the country mainly through which the Congo and its affluents flow, and of which that river is the great artery. From the mouth of the river to Boma, a distance of eighty miles, the land is low, marshy and malarious, Boma being the hottest place upon the river, and unsalubrious, as it is surrounded by mangrove swamps. But though, for this distance, the low, flat land through which the river runs to the sea is malarious, it is not as much so, nor as injurious to health as the coast north of it, especially at the mouth of the Niger and upon the Gold Coast.

“Along the great length of the western coast, from Cape de Verde to the Gaboon and the Congo, are hundreds of square miles of brackish and salt water lagoons and swamps, which are level with the sea, and often only

separated from it by a narrow mangrove-fringed beach. The bottom of these lagoons" in the language of Monteiro, the recent writer before referred to, "is generally a soft, deep, black fetid mud, and a stick plunged into it comes up thickly covered with a mass nearly approaching in appearance to paste blacking. In the dry season, great expanses of the bottom of these swamps become partially dry, and, fermenting in the hot tropical sun, cause a horrible stench, from the decayed millions of small fish, crabs, etc., left exposed on the surface. The number of fish and some of the lower forms of life inhabiting the mud and water of these lagoons is almost incredible. If one keeps quite still for a few minutes, the slimy ground becomes perfectly alive and hissing, from the legions of small brightly-colored land crabs that issue simultaneously from thousands of round holes, from the size of a quill to about an inch and a half in diameter.

It is in these gigantic hotbeds of decomposition that the deadly types of African fever arise, and this pest water and mud, when swept into the rivers by the floods, in the rainy season, is carried far and wide, with what effect to human life on that coast, it is needless to mention." *

"On those parts of the West Coast," he remarks, "where level swampy ground is not the rule, a most agreeable change is seen in the character of the landscape, although, perhaps, the climate is just as unhealthy. Drenched constantly by pelting thunderstorms and drizzling mists that roll down from the highlands and mountain-tops, the country is covered by the most luxuriant forest vegetation, in one expanse of the deepest unvarying green, the

* Monteiro, Vol. I., pp. 25, 26.

combined result of excessive moisture and the tropical sun of an almost uninterrupted summer.”*

This alternation of swamp and dense forest ends at the river Congo ; and a total change then takes place in the country along the coast, south of the Congo, which is comparatively arid, and at about 13° S. lat. it is little else than an arid, rocky and sandy desert.

From the Congo to Mossameds, no forest is seen from the sea, and from thence not a single tree for hundreds of miles to the Orange river. Nowhere on the coast is there more than an indication of the wonderful vegetation and varied beauty and fertility of the interior.

Along a large part of the western coast the heavy surf of the Atlantic rolls and beats incessantly, wearing away the hardest granite and giving forth a monotonous sound which never ceases. In certain parts breaking against high cliffs or rocks ; in others rolling upon white sandy beaches ; and as its breaking is unrelieved by the presence of the sea-gull or any other bird, the continuous moaning sound it gives forth, it is said, has a depressing effect upon the spirits. Sharks exist in great numbers in this surf, and are very dangerous, but are rarely seen south of the Congo.

The physical nature and character of the negroes inhabiting the whole of this western coast is what might be expected from the nature of the country. I quote what Monteiro says respecting them, in preference to other writers, because his work was published only nine years ago, and because he has had unusual opportunities for observation, having resided many years on the western coast, and travelled extensively over it. “It is impossible,” he observes, “to reclaim the hordes of savages inhabiting the interior even of Angola,

* Monteiro, Vol. I., p. 26.

from their horrid customs and their disregard for life ; the insalubrity of the country, though it is infinitely superior in this respect to the rest of the West Coast, would be an almost insuperable bar to their improvement ; their own progress is still more hopeless. In my opinion it would be necessary that tropical Africa should undergo a total physical revolution ; that the long line of unhealthy coast should be upheaved, and the deadly leagues of pestiferous swamps be thus drained, before the country would be fitted for the existence of a higher type of mankind than the present negro race.

“ It can only have been by the countless ages of battling with malaria that they have been reduced physically and morally to their present wonderful state or condition of withstanding successfully the climatic influences so fatal to the white and more highly organized races—the sun and fevers of their malignant and dismal mangrove swamps, or the mists and agues of their magnificent tropical forests, no more affecting them than they do the alligators and countless mosquitoes that swarm in the former, or the monkeys and snakes that inhabit the latter. It is really astonishing to see the naked negro, without a particle of covering on his head (often shaved) in the full blaze of the fierce sun, his daily food a few handfuls of ground nuts, beans, or mandioca root, and very often most unwholesome water for drink. At night he throws himself on the ground, anywhere, covers himself with a thin grass or cotton cloth, nearly transparent in texture, without a pillow, like a dog, and awakes in the morning generally wet through with the heavy dew, and does not suffer the least pain or inconvenience from the climate from infancy to old age, unless his lungs become affected.”*

* Monteiro, Vol. I., pp. 69, 70 and 71.

This writer, whose opinion, from long acquaintance with the country and its inhabitants, is entitled to great weight, draws most unfavorable conclusions in respect to the negro from what he has seen and known of him. He says : "There is no use in disguising the fact that the negro race is mentally different from ours, however disagreeable and opposed this may be to prevailing ideas. I fearlessly assert that there is hardly such a thing possible as the sincere conversion of a negro to Christianity, whilst he remains in Africa and is under the influence of his fellows, and no progress will be made as long as the belief prevails that he is equal to the white man, and that he can be reasoned out of his ignorance, his prejudices and his belief in feticism. The only thing he really believes in is witchcraft. He knows neither love, affection or jealousy. He is inferior in this respect to many animals, even to the monkeys and the birds that are about him. In all the long years that I have been in Africa, I have never seen a negro manifest the least tenderness for or to a negress or the slightest caress that would indicate any loving regard on either side. They have no word in their languages for, or indicating, love or affection. He is not cruel—that is, he will not inflict pain for the pleasure of doing so; but he has no idea of pity, mercy or compassion. He is neither vindictive nor grateful. No amount of bad treatment is resented, nor any extent of good done him recognized. He is untruthful and dishonest, because it is impossible for him to understand that there is anything wrong in being a liar or a thief. He has no idea of a Creator or of a future existence. He neither adores the sun, nor any other object, idol or image. His whole belief is in evil spirits, feticism and witchcraft, that can be employed for evil or to counteract it." And he sums

up the negro character in the general statement that it is deficient in the passions and their corresponding virtues ; that his is organically a rudimentary form of mind, that is capable of little development to a higher type.

This opinion may be justified by the character and condition of the negroes dwelling in the malarious belts of the coast, of which this writer has had so much experience ; but it does not follow that it applies equally to the negroes of the interior, who dwell in a healthy and fruitful country, and who, from the report of all who have seen them, are a superior race of savages.

We will now return to the Congo. As the river is ascended from Boma, it is cooler and healthier, and at Vivi and beyond it, up the river, dysentery, which is endemic upon the coast, is almost unknown. This, and much that I have said respecting it, is derived from Mr. H. H. Johnson, who spent some time upon the Congo last year, and who says that the temperature when you reach Stanley Falls is delightful. Commander Cameron is most enthusiastic in his description of certain portions of this region, which he passed in his journey further south, to describe the beauty of which, he says, would be impossible, as neither poet nor painter could by pen or pencil do full justice to it. Monteiro is equally enthusiastic upon the interior of Angola, through which he travelled. He speaks of creepers of all kinds that attain a gigantic size, almost monopolizing the vegetation, clasping round the biggest trees covering them with a mass of foliage and flower, and forming most exquisite festoons and curtains, as they connect one tree with another in their embrace. No words, he says, can describe the luxuriance of these tree creepers, particularly in the vicinity of the

shallow rivers and rivulets of the interior. Several trees together he found covered from top to bottom with a rich mantle of the India rubber creeper, with bright, large dark-green leaves, somewhat resembling those of the magnolia, thickly studded with large bunches of purest white jasmine-like flowers, loading the air, for a considerable distance, with its powerful bitter-almond perfume, and attracting a cloud of buzzing insects. Once, at Bembe, he says, I saw a perfect wall or curtain formed by a most delicate per, hung from top to bottom with bottle-brush-like flowers, about three inches long; but the grandest view presented to my eyes was in the Pungo Adongo range, where the bottom of a narrow valley, for quite half a mile in length, was filled, as they all are in the interior, by a dense forest of high trees. The creepers, in search of light, had pierced through and spread on the top, where their stems and leaves had become woven and matted into a thick carpet, on which their flowers were produced in such profusion that hardly a leaf was visible, but only one long sea of beautiful purple, like a glacier of color, filling the valley and set in a frame of green of the luxuriant grass covered hillsides. The very blacks that accompanied me, so little impressed as they are usually by the beauties of nature, beat their open mouths with the palm of their hand, as they uttered short "Ah! ah! ahs!" their universal mode of expressing astonishment or delight, so wonderful, even to them, appeared the magnificent mass of color below us, as it suddenly came in view when we arrived at the head of the valley, down one side of which we descended to the plain below.*

Stanley estimates the population of this fertile and salubrious region as high as 49,000,000; and Keith Johnson,

* Monteiro, Vol. 1, pp. 31 to 32.

the geographer, says, in taking a general survey of it, from Lake Tanganyka to the western coast, it is evident it is a country of enormous natural wealth. The oil palm flourishes throughout the broad valley of the Upper Congo, and cotton, coffee, tobacco, pepper, nutmeg and India rubber are among the vegetable productions that grow wild. Indian corn, wheat, rice, sweet potatoes and other vegetable products, which have been introduced by the Portuguese, grow everywhere, and as respects the metals, iron and copper exist in abundance; iron, in fact, being very skilfully worked by the natives. The ivory trade is a very important one. The ivory comes from the interior and is brought to the coast by caravans. It is procured from animals that are killed to obtain it and is not ivory found among the remains of elephants that have died a natural death. The natives laugh at the idea of ivory becoming scarce, so that the number slaughtered must be small in comparison with the living herds which the natives are in the habit of seeing in the vast plains of the interior.

The western coast abounds with fish, some of which, like the punga, that visits the coast in the cold season—that is, from June to August—weigh nearly 100 pounds. The Bay of Musserra is a noted place for the capture of this fine fish; as many as 40 or 50 being caught there in a day with a hook and line. The fish is an article of trade, but very few of the natives engage in the business of fishing; they make so much by trading, that they will not take the trouble.

There is a remarkable deposit of malachite in Angola, south of the Congo. It is often found in large solid blocks, one resting on two smaller ones, and weighing together over three tons; but it occurs mostly in flat veins, without

any definite dip or order, sometimes two feet in thickness, and much fissured. The mines were for some time abandoned, but are now, I believe, worked by the natives.

The plant that produces the India rubber is the giant tree-creeper, before referred to as covering the highest trees. The stem is sometimes as thick as a man's thigh, and forests are festooned by it to a large extent and in all directions, the thick stems tying the trees together like great hawsers.* Every part of this creeper exudes a milky juice when cut or wounded; but unlike the India rubber of America, this milky sap will not run in a vessel placed to receive it; for it dries so quickly that it forms a ridge on the wound or cut that stops its further flow. The blacks collect it, therefore, by making long cuts in the bark with a knife, and as the milky juice gushes out, it is wiped off continually with their fingers and smeared on their arms, shoulders and breast, until a thick covering is formed, when this is peeled off their bodies and cut into small squares.

Gum copal is found here of the finest quality, but not enough is obtained to meet the demand for it, as the natives are not disposed to dig for it.

Very little of the coffee produced is cultivated, most of it being the product of coffee-trees, growing spontaneously. Coffee is found growing wild in the virgin forests of the interior, but it is believed not to be native to the country, but to have been originally introduced by the old Portuguese missionaries, and to have been spread into the interior by the agency of monkeys and birds. There are important coffee plantations carried on by slave labor, but they exist under great disadvantages for the want of

* Monteiro, Vol. 1, p. 138.

roads. Generally, the natives do not take to the planting of coffee, as they find it growing wild. It grows only in certain parts of the interior, but the production of it in the future is unlimited, from the great extent of country suitable for its cultivation. The chief port for its exportation is Ambriz, where a considerable trade is now carried on in this article.

Cotton is grown sparingly everywhere. It is picked from the seeds and beaten on the ground with a switch, to open it out. It is then spun by hand, and the cotton thread is woven by the natives into strong, thick cloth. But this industry has fallen off, from the importation of foreign cotton goods.

Food is abundant everywhere, and exceedingly cheap, growing with the greatest luxuriance in the fertile regions of the interior.

Cattle are easily reared, except in the regions farther south, where they are exposed to the tsetse fly. Sheep, goats and poultry also thrive. But the indolence of the natives prevents them from availing themselves to any great extent of the capabilities of the soil and climate for the rearing of these animals.

Among the available vegetable productions is the baobab-tree, one of the giants of the vegetable kingdom, which grows to the height of 40 feet, and has a huge trunk, the diameter of which is from 20 to 30 feet. The fibre of this tree is used to make paper, cordage, &c. Millions of these trees cover the whole of Angola, south of the Congo.

Another great product of the country is ground-nuts, or, as we call them, peanuts, which are exported to Europe, to make a certain kind of oil. In Africa they constitute a large article of food among the natives.

In the grass region the grass grows to a great height, and journeys have to be made in the wet season through it, the traveller lying in a hammock which is slung to a pole and carried by negro bearers. It is not an agreeable mode of travelling. As he lies in the hammock he is below the grass, where he sees nothing but a small part of the sky above him and where it is intensely hot; in addition to which he has to stand what animals will sometimes turn away from—the disagreeable odor emanating from the bodies of his hardly-worked negro bearers.

The curse of this favored land is the internal slave trade of the East Coast, of which the Portuguese are still the principal abettors, but whose efforts have been greatly arrested by the power and influence already acquired by the African International Association and the Congo Committee, the efforts of these combined organizations being largely directed to the suppression of this dreadful traffic, which, wherever it is successfully carried on, leaves behind it a wilderness.

What has already been accomplished by those two philanthropic organizations in this opening up of Central Africa has involved the expenditure of an enormous amount of money, the principal part of which, it is known, the King of the Belgians has supplied from his own private purse. In fact, no such example of enlightened munificence in forwarding geographical exploration has been seen, as he has exhibited, since the days of Prince Henry of Portugal, surnamed the Navigator, who, by his comprehensive insight and large expenditure of means, inaugurated, in the fifteenth century, that great movement for maritime exploration which led to the passage of the Cape of Good Hope and the discovery of

America. But although much has been done during the last six years, much is still to be done. "Two-thirds of the way," says a recent writer, "remain to be marked out. In traversing it, there are immense regions to be explored, and millions of human beings to be brought within the reach of civilization."

After these six years of laborious efforts on the part of these bodies, acting practically as one organization, and what they have achieved—their large expenditure of money, the territorial rights and privileges they have acquired by treaties with the barbaric sovereignties who are in actual occupation; the steamers they have placed upon the rivers, the stations they have established, and the protection they have afforded to life and property; exercising, in fact, under a general flag, the incipient powers of government—the small European monarchy of Portugal, with little more than four millions of inhabitants, suddenly starts up and claims the right to control the mouth of this great water artery of Africa, upon the claim of having discovered it four centuries ago, which discovery, if it conferred at the time any rights to the river or to the land upon either bank of it, have long since been lost by non-user, and what that control means, the commercial gentlemen present will understand when I state that in the Portuguese possessions on the western coast, below the Congo, the capital and seaport of which is St. Paul de Loando, all merchandise brought into Africa there is subject to a duty of 40 per cent., with a rebate of 30 per cent. if the owners of the merchandise are Portuguese, a regulation which practically excludes all other nations, except the Portuguese, from trading with the interior of Africa along that part of the western coast.

To claim a territory by the right of discovery which has not been followed up by actual and continued occupation, is, as to its effect upon other nations, of no more value, in the present age, than paper blockades. The maritime and commercial interests of the world, at the present day, will tolerate no such assumption. The claim of Portugal to the mouth of the Congo and the territory adjoining both banks of the river below Yallala Falls, amounts, as I understand it, to this: that just four centuries ago, this present year, or in 1483, one Diego Cam, a knight of the household of the King of Portugal, discovered the mouth of the river, and formally took possession of it by erecting a stone pillar on the south part, now known as Point Padron; that he sailed up the river a short distance, which was then called by the natives the Zaire, but afterwards received the name of the Congo, as it was on the border, and the boundary of the kingdom of Congo.

This, with some trading factories, which the Portuguese had, with other nations, during the active years of the slave trade, and which they have no longer, is about all that they have done for centuries to possess themselves of the river, or of the countries through which it flows. They did settle in the capital of the King of Congo, at the south, which they named San Salvador; but practically abandoned it afterwards for San Paul de Loando, upon the coast, further south. They retained formal possession of San Salvador, but even this they had entirely abandoned before Stanley's great discovery. The fact is, the northern limit of the territory of which they now have possession is a few miles north of Ambris, the outlet for the coffee trade of the interior; the northern boundary of the Portuguese dominion being a small river,

a little above Ambris, called the Loge. Over the country north of this, or its people, they have no control whatever ; any influence they may formerly have had has passed away, the people being now independent of them, and opposed to allowing any of the white races to penetrate their country from the coast to the interior. Beyond the river and the coast is a European settlement, Kinsambo, which is cosmopolitan and independent.

Point Banana, the settlement on the north side of the mouth of the Congo, consists of factories of Dutch, French and English. Boma is *the trading port* of the river, containing factories or agencies of many nationalities, chiefly Dutch and English, and is rapidly increasing in trade and population. It was formerly a great slave station, to which slave-ships of different nations resorted, being maintained then by the raids of the slave-traders into the interior, who depopulated the country far inward. In good seasons, thirty thousand tons of African produce are exported by the trading houses on the Congo, and two millions and a half pounds sterling of English manufactured goods are imported there. Lord Mayo, who, in 1882, investigated the subject, says that Portugal has not imported to or exported from the Congo, a single ton. She has, he says, no trade of any kind in all the neutral territory from Kinsambo down to Kabenda, nor at the Congo.

Upon what is here stated, the discovery of the mouth of the river, their formally taking possession of it by the erection of the pillar aforesaid, and that they have never given up what they thus took possession of symbolically, is, as I understand it, about the extent of their claim. They seem to think that the putting up of their stone bauble, four hundred years ago, at the mouth of this great artery,

although they have done nothing since to develop it as a pathway to the interior, entitles them now to control those who have, which is so preposterous and absurd, in respect to the immense region to which the Congo is the natural water-way, that the mere statement of its absurdity is sufficient. Whatever other nationalities may do, we certainly will not, as a great commercial nation, assent to any such claim. We are called upon now to enter our protest, and to enforce it, if necessary, against any such pretension, not only as a commercial nation, but as the home of a population descended from the natives of Africa, who are greater in point of numbers than the entire population of Portugal. The whole population of Portugal is but a fraction over four millions, and the colored population of the United States is over six millions and a half. We have also an interest in the Republic of Liberia, extending 600 miles along the western coast, founded by the American Colonization Society, of this country, out of a population composed of free Africans and of recaptured and emancipated slaves, which has maintained itself, under great difficulties, for sixty years, and is now an independent government, possessing, not only this extensive line of coast, but a valuable country in the interior, to which, from its salubrity, African emigration from the United States has been largely attracted, within the past few years, and Sierria has now, after a long struggle, the appearance of becoming a permanent, civilized African State.

It has been suggested by European writers that an International Protectorate should be established at the mouth of the Congo; but I see no occasion to resort to this entangling diplomatic contrivance. It is much better to leave those who settle on the Congo to apply to their

condition the principle of self-government, as was done in the settlement of this country, and of which our history furnishes so many satisfactory illustrations ; and, as was done by the Boers, in the Orange Free State, and in the Transvaal, before the English followed them and claimed the right to rule over them against their will. The settlers on the Congo, and in the countries adjacent, will manage their own affairs infinitely better than officials acting as the representatives of a combination of foreign governments. In fact, this is now taking place over the whole field of the operations of the International African Association, and its coadjutor, the Congo Committee ; and the true course is to allow this organization to go on with its practical work, and for foreign nations, like ourselves, to recognize it as an organization, in actual occupation of the country, administering its affairs in the general interests of civilization, and to the satisfaction of the native races within its influence, for whose benefit it was instituted. Portugal's idea of the colonization of Africa is the very opposite of this. It is to colonize it, not for the benefit of Africa, but for the benefit of Portugal. This she may do, on that part of the southwest coast of which she is and has long since been in actual possession ; but when she undertakes to assume control of the mouth of the great artery of Central Africa, other commercial nations will say that she shall not, or at least we will, and, if need be, exercise the power of a large nation to enforce it.

The proper course now to pursue, to prevent future difficulty, is to recognize the two international African Associations as in possession of the country over which their operations extend, and, *de facto*, exercising the power of

government under a common flag. To do so is not without precedent. In 1878 the Sultans of Brunei and of Sala, in Borneo, ceded to Baron Overbeck, an Austrian, and to Mr. Dent, an Englishman, all their rights over a considerable territory in the northern part of the island. These gentlemen having made over their title to an English company, this company obtained, in 1881, a charter of incorporation from the English Government. The grant of this charter gave rise in the House of Commons to a discussion, in which the ground taken by the Ministry was, that they found themselves confronted by accomplished facts; that the company was legally in possession of a part of a foreign territory, and that they had confined themselves to conceding the advantages of a purely commercial recognition, in exchange for a certain control which the Crown was to exercise in the interests of the natives and of general peace.

The policy of recognizing the organization now in possession of the Upper Congo becomes more important in the light of recent events. A year or more ago the English Cabinet entered into negotiations for a treaty with Portugal, by which her right to the territories beyond her present possessions on the West Coast, to and including the mouth of the Congo, should be recognized, which was not carried out owing to the opposition of Parliament.

On the 26th of last February, however, a formal treaty was signed between Great Britain and Portugal, by which the sovereignty of Portugal is recognized, between 5° 12' and 8° South latitude, that is, on the West Coast, from about the bay of Kabenda, north of the Congo, to the Portuguese possessions south of it, and then up the river to a little below Vivi, at Nokki, which the treaty recognizes as in

the possession of the African International Association. This treaty is not the result of any change of convictions as previously expressed respecting the right of Portugal, of which England has long been the consistent opponent, but, as I understand, is made in return for certain concessions by Portugal to England on the East Coast and in South Africa. This may be very well for England and Portugal, but there are other nations in the world who will have something to say in the matter.

The free navigation of the Congo, it is said, is assured by the treaty ; but, as I understand, nothing is said in it respecting the transit by land, on both sides of the river, a distance of over 100 miles, a very important part of this great highway to Central Africa, for all up-river goods have to be trans-shipped and go by Bomba. This part of the transit or highway, therefore, would be under the sole control of the Portuguese, a people who, in Africa, like the Bourbons, have learned nothing and forgotten nothing.

It is difficult to speak with moderation of this attempt on the part of Portugal, abetted by the present English Ministry, thus to obtain control of everything on both sides of the river, for more than one hundred miles from its mouth, now that there is a prospect of its becoming, through the efforts of others, an important mart of trade.

The Mozambique tariff will, I assume, be extended over it; subjecting all who trade there, not only to the duties imposed, but what is worse, to the ruinous delays and exactions of the wretchedly paid officials that Portugal has in her African colonies. What assurance the world will have, from Portugal's having sovereign dominion there, can readily be inferred from their management of their present colonies on the West Coast, the management of

which elicited from a writer so well informed as Monteiro, the remark that : “It is a great pity that Portugal should neglect so disgracefully her colonies, so rich in themselves and offering such wonderful advantages in every way for colonization and development.” And he gives this instance of what he calls “their usual blind and absurd policy.” Ambriz was, up to the year 1855, in the hands of the natives, and was one of their principal ports on the western coast. Here were established American and Liverpool houses, trading in gum, copal, malachite and ivory, and disposing in exchange of cotton and other goods. In that year, the Portuguese took possession of Ambriz and at once levied heavy duties on all goods imported. The consequence was that the foreign houses, to escape their exactions, removed to another place, on the other side of the small river that marks the Portuguese boundary ; the effect of which was, he says, that the trade of Ambriz, was completely annihilated, and for many years the revenue barely sufficed to pay the salaries of the revenue officers.

But I have dwelt sufficiently long on this subject and will, in conclusion, say, in respect to the future of Africa, that there is upon the western coast little reason to suppose that it will ever be very different from what it is now ; that while the same physical conditions continue, the same results will follow, the forces of nature there being too strong for the influence of man to counteract them.

In respect, however, to the interior of this great continent, there is reason to believe that a great deal can and will be achieved there in the future. That it will be by an influx of white races which, by their superior industry, energy and high civilization, will gradually exterminate the blacks, as the white races extinguished the Indian

aborigines of our own continent, is not generally believed. It is supposed by the best-informed that the natives of the interior, being different from those of the coast, will greatly improve under the influences of the whites who may settle in that healthy region, and that it is possible that a civilization may grow up there that will, in respect to race, be extensively African. It certainly will not, if the whole negro race should prove to be what Mr. Monteiro thinks it is.

There are those who are doubtful whether the resources of Africa are worth all the trouble which has been taken to open up the country. They claim that ivory, India rubber and gum are the only products that are of any value, and that ivory is getting every year scarcer; that a large part of the country is unavailable from the excess of moisture, and other parts equally so from the want of it; and, finally, that the white man can never colonize tropical Africa, whether upon the coast or in the interior. These anticipations read very much like the predictions which were once indulged in respecting Georgia and other of our Southern States. They are not, however, the impressions of those who have explored the interior:—Stanley, Cameron, H. H. Johnson, and others who are better able to judge than those who know the country only by report.

Johnson found the soil in the valleys, especially along the Congo, of the richest kind, and speaks of the time when these valleys will be waving with golden grain. He declares that the climate of the interior tableland is wholly different from that of the miasmatic coast, and that, with ordinary precautions, a white man there need not have a day's illness; that ordinary temperance in

eating and drinking, and one or two other simple precautions, will keep a sound man healthy.

The indications certainly are, that there is a future in Central Africa. There is a civilization now spreading there, which is moving northerly up from South Africa, and which will ultimately become connected with and enlarged by the communication now being established across the continent along the valley of the Congo, and we may, I think, feel the assurance that this movement will continue until the whole interior of this vast continent so yields itself up to the dominion of civilized man.

APPENDIX.

THE CONGO TREATY.

HOW THE YIELDING TO PORTUGUESE CLAIMS WILL INJURE
COMMERCE.*(London Pall Mall Gazette, March, 1884.)*

The *London Pall Mall Gazette* publishes an article on "British Trade Under the Congo Treaty," being the substance of an interview with an old Congo trader: "A Portuguese is poison wherever you find him, at any rate out of Portugal." Such was the comprehensive summing up of an old British trader who has had many years' experience on both sides of the African continent. He was a tall, spare, grizzled Englishman without an ounce of superfluous flesh on his body, but showing a little trace of the succession of fevers and agues which he had suffered in the malarial swamps on the African coast. "The Portuguese is poison," he said, "poison to British trade, and especially to the British trader. The English merchant avoids territory over which the Portuguese flag flies as the devil hates holy water. It is not only their tariff, but the custom houses and the endless delays which they interpose in the transaction of any kind of business. They're a bad lot, a very bad lot. Their only conception of government in the greater part of their possessions is to plant a custom house at every little port or creek where goods can be landed, in order to collect import duties and compel the unfortunate traders to grease the wheels of routine with palm oil. Beyond gunshot of these stations they exercise no authority over the natives they profess to govern. You may call that government if you please; I call it levying blackmail, and

so does every English trader who has ever done business in Portuguese Africa.

TRADING WITH THE NATIVES.

“It is some time since I left the Congo, but when I was there I was at the head of one of the largest businesses in that region. I was only a young man when I went out, but the pay was high and the occupation adventurous, and I kept at it for several years, until the climate killed those I loved and worked for, when I got tired of the place and came away ; and since I left I believe the business has undergone a complete revolution, owing to the regular calling of steamers at Banana Creek. In the old days trade was centralized in the hands of three British firms, as it required large capital and extensive stock. Since the steamers began to ply regularly, the necessity for keeping such large stock has disappeared, smaller men have gone into the trade, and there is much more competition than there was. But in its essential elements business on the Congo is as it was when I left the coast. It was rather exciting to carry on business on the Congo ; what with pirates and Portuguese and the malaria, traders had pretty lively times. I had numerous stations scattered along the coast from Ambrizette in the south to Ponta-Banda north. At each of these we had depots of goods, which I visited regularly in turn, collecting the produce of the country, and giving in exchange all descriptions of British goods. Rum, gunpowder, and guns formed about one-third of the total business transacted ; we traded up the rivers as far as they were navigable. I would send, for instance, £100 worth of goods in a lighter, with a native agent, who would barter them for palm oil. Up the Congo I went myself with my steamer, hauling

lighters up the stream against the current, which runs very strong between the innumerable islands which crowd the Lower Congo.

UNDER FIRE.

“I had a small army of kroomen, whom I recruited in the north at Monrovia and Cape Palmas, good, sturdy workers, who were paid a good wage and were very faithful. Of course, they stole like cats, but they would not allow anybody else to steal but themselves, and were ready to defend me to the death. That was no empty phrase, for I have had them shot dead by my side. The Lower Congo is the resort of native pirates called the Missalongas, who prey upon all the traffic, native and foreign, that frequents their river. One of the most awkward things about the navigation of the lower Congo is that the channel is continually changing; new banks are formed during the rainy season, and nothing is more common than to be stuck on your return journey in a place where deep water was flowing when you went up stream. It is a very disagreeable experience to be stranded all night in the lee of one of the numerous islands, from which the Missalongas, under cover of the mangroves, are pelting you with slugs. Of course, you fire back; every lighter carries its stack of rifles, ready for instant use. Admiral Hewett, whom I knew very well and admired immensely when he was on the Congo, taught them a very severe lesson, but it is difficult to punish them effectively. You can only burn down their houses, when you can get to them, after toiling through the mangrove swamps, and then a few hours' labor suffices to build them up again as good as new.

THE PORTUGUESE TREATY.

“And now by this new treaty you have handed over both banks of the Lower Congo to the Portuguese. When I heard of it at first it seemed to me sheer lunacy, and my opinion is that of every man who has ever done business in a Portuguese colony. At Lisbon they may be very friendly, and respect the English mightily; but get them away in Africa, and you’ll find that every Portuguese official regards it as the first duty of man to harass the British trader in all manner or ways. Naturally I don’t like this Congo treaty. To begin with, it means doubling the duties on every article imported from Great Britain. At present we pay five per cent., as near as may be, to the native chiefs. Henceforth we have to pay six per cent. to the Portuguese. That will, I take it, be in addition to the five cent. already paid to the chiefs. Of course, if the Portuguese will undertake to satisfy the chiefs out of their six per cent., well and good. But trust a Portuguese not to part with any of his six per cent.; and, as you may be equally sure that the native chiefs who have hitherto been paid five per cent. will not give up a cent of their tax without a struggle, there will be nothing for it but to pay eleven per cent. or fight and get into no end of trouble.

FUTURE TRADE ROUTES.

“I should have preferred it to be neutral ground, policed by an international commission. But, after all, it is not so great a matter. Of course, it increases the difficulties of traders all over the territory ceded to Portugal. That goes without saying. The Portuguese is the natural enemy of our trade, and to let the Portuguese in is usually to drive British trade out. But if you can really secure free

transit without the worries and delays of Portuguese customs officials through the Lower Congo to Vivi, it does not much matter. The true route to the Upper Congo is not through the dangerous archipelago of islands and mud banks terminating in a *cul de sac* at the Yellala Falls. Trade will reach the Upper Congo, but by the Kwilu (or Quillo), which lies to the north of 5 deg. 12 min. That is the trade route of the future, and on that as yet no Portuguese has laid a finger."

II.

OPINIONS ON THE TREATY.

Opinions expressed at the meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, February 11th, 1884, affecting the treaty with Portugal, by persons who have visited the Congo during the previous year.

H. H. JOHNSTON

said, if ever a railway was made to Stanley pool, it would be along the valley of the Kuilu, in which case Landana would be its outlet. When Mr. Stanley was there, he was very anxious that it should not get into the hands of either the French or Portuguese. The Dutch merchants at Banana had informed him that there was an arrangement on foot by which the Portuguese Government would occupy both sides of the Congo mouth. In that case everything else would be in the hands of Portugal. He read in the daily papers that the Portuguese were prepared to allow the same liberal terms as were at present in vogue in Mozambique; but those who knew anything of Mozambique

would think that the terms were rather illiberal than otherwise. He therefore thought it would be a very unfortunate thing if Portugal was allowed to occupy Landana and Banana, the two points which would affect the Congo in the future.

SIR FOWELL BUXTON

said although he had nothing to contribute to our geographical knowledge of the Congo, he wished to put one or two questions to the gentlemen who had so recently returned from the river. It would be interesting to know what, if any, traces were still to be found of that Portuguese dominion which was of great importance several centuries ago. Formerly that dominion was a real thing, and it was administered to a great degree on the best Christian principles of that time. The old Portuguese governors wished that their government should be for the benefit of the governed, and they exercised their control with a great deal of masterfulness, guided by Christianity. It could not be doubted that their government extended over a very large area and lasted for a long time. If all trace of their dominion had vanished it would be a fact worth knowing. He also wished to know if the readers of the papers were able to measure the effect of Stanley's and De Brazza's work—whether trade had sensibly increased, and, if so, whether that increase had led to greater communication between the different tribes, and therefore, to more friendly intercourse and to the diminution of intertribal wars. He believed that such had been the effect where communications had been opened out in other parts of Africa, and it might reasonably be hoped that the same result would be experienced in the valley of the Congo.

GENERAL SIR F. GOLDSMID,

in replying to the questions that had been put by Sir Fowell Buxton, said that from the little he had seen of the Congo, he was only able to answer imperfectly ; but he thought there was now scarcely any trace whatever of Portuguese dominion in those parts. At the present day, he did not suppose that the Portuguese were better known along the river banks than the English, Dutch, French, or other nations there represented. At Loanda, of course, Portuguese influence prevailed, as also further down the coast for some distance ; but it was generally understood that a “white man” could not go from Loanda to Ambriz without being molested by the natives. A statement to this effect will be found in Mr. Monteiro’s clever book on Angola, published about nine years ago, and he (Sir Frederic) had learnt on trustworthy local authority, corroborated, to the best of his recollection, by a Portuguese gentleman on board the steamer in which he travelled, that such was still the case. With regard to the trade on the Congo, he did not think that, as yet, there had been any palpable increase in the imports and exports, but this result could hardly be expected so soon. He had little doubt that when more stations had been formed, and the aims and objects of the association were more clearly understood, the whole would, in time, become centres, as it were, of traffic, and a great impetus would be given to commerce and the march of civilization.

THE PRESIDENT, LORD ABERDARE,

said he would not be tempted by the political hints that had been thrown out, to enter into the question whether or not Mr. Gladstone was going to violate his promise that

the treaty with Portugal should be submitted to the House of Commons, nor whether the Dutch merchants had received information as to the contents of the treaty, which were not known in this country. He had no doubt that in process of time it would be found that Her Majesty's Government would do all that they had promised to do, and submit their treaty to the consideration of Parliament; and he was bound to say that if they had shown too great consideration for the interests of Portugal, it could not be for want of ample notice, in Parliament and out, of the opinion of the mercantile community in this country. With those considerations, however, the Geographical Society had nothing to do. Their interests were geographical, and the progress of geography led to commerce, which, when conducted as it was in these days, generally led to the advantage and improvement of a country. It may not have been so in the past, when the most active commerce, in those districts, was in human beings; but things were altered now, and with little exception, commerce was now the handmaid of progress.

III.

THE CONGO.

From the New York Herald, April 24, 1884.

RECOGNITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

WASHINGTON, April 22, 1884.—The injunction of secrecy was removed to-day from the resolution adopted by the Senate, in executive session April 10, authorizing the

recognition of the African International Association, which is now opening up to commerce the valley of the Congo. The resolution is as follows :

IN EXECUTIVE SESSION, }
SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES, April 10, 1884. }

Resolved, That the Senate concurs in the views expressed by the President of the United States in his last annual message to Congress in reference to the interests of the United States in the settlement of the Congo country in Africa, and in the opening of that country to the free access of the people and lawful commerce of all other countries. And that it is the opinion of the Senate that the flag of the African International Association should be recognized as the flag of a friendly government.

ANSON G. M'COOK.

Attest: By CHARLES W. JOHNSON,
Chief Clerk.

THE PRESIDENT'S VIEWS.

The views expressed by the President "in his last annual message" were as follows :

The rich and populous valley of the Congo is being opened to commerce by a society called the International African Association, of which the King of the Belgians is the president and a citizen of the United States the chief executive officer. Large tracts of territory have been ceded to the Association by native chiefs. Roads have been opened, steamboats placed on the river and the nuclei of States established at twenty-two stations under one flag, which offers freedom to commerce and prohibits the slave trade. The objects of the Society are philanthropic. It does not aim at permanent political control, but seeks the neutrality of the valley. The United States cannot be indifferent to this work, nor to the interests of their citizens involved in it. It may become advisable for us to co-operate with other commercial powers in promoting the rights of trade and residence in the Congo valley free from the interference or political control of any one nation.

TO PREVENT THE SLAVE TRADE.

In view of the action of the Senate in this matter as above shown, Mr. Henry S. Sanford, the representative of the African International Association, to-day executed and delivered to the Secretary of State the following official declaration :

Declaration by the International Association of the Congo.

The International Association of the Congo hereby declares that by treaties with the legitimate sovereigns in the basin of the Congo and of the Niadi-

Kialun and in adjacent territories upon the Atlantic there has been ceded to it territory for the use and benefit of free States established and being established under the care and supervision of the said Association in the said basins and adjacent nations, and to do all in their power to prevent the slave trade.

In testimony whereof, Henry S. Sanford, duly empowered therefor, by the said Association acting for itself and for the said free States, has hereunto set his hand and affixed his seal this 22d day of April, 1884, in the City of Washington.

H. S. SANFORD.

THE FLAG RECOGNIZED.

Upon receipt of this declaration Secretary Frelinghuysen, by direction of the President, made the following official announcement of the recognition of "the flag of the International African Association as the flag of a friendly government":

"Frederick T. Frelinghuysen, Secretary of State, duly empowered therefor by the President of the United States of America, and pursuant to the advice and consent of the Senate heretofore given, acknowledges the receipt of the foregoing notification from the International Association of the Congo, and declares that in harmony with the traditional policy of the United States, which enjoins a proper regard for the commercial interests of their citizens, while at the same time avoiding interference with controversies between other powers as well as alliances with foreign nations, the Government of the United States announces its sympathy with and approval of the humane and benevolent purpose of the International Association of the Congo, administering as it does the interests of the free States there established, and will order the officers of the United States, both on land and sea, to recognize the flag of the International African Association as the flag of a friendly government.

In testimony whereof, he has hereunto set his hand and affixed his seal, this 22d day of April, A.D. 1884, in the City of Washington.

(Signed) FREDERICK T. FRELINGHUYSEN."

IV.

From the London Times, April 18, 1884.

THE CONGO TREATY.

(a.)

We have already expressed our conviction that the treaty lately concluded between this country and Portugal on the subject of the River Congo is well calculated in the main to promote the interests of both countries. To that judgment we adhere, but it is impossible to ignore the fact that the treaty is regarded with considerable dislike in many quarters, both in England and abroad, and that its ratification is likely to encounter an active opposition in the House of Commons. The dislike and opposition are based on various grounds. Impatience of control in a district where trade and commerce have hitherto been entirely free is one of these grounds, and distrust of the good intentions, and, perhaps, in some cases, even of the good faith of Portugal is another. These and the like objections would, as we have admitted, be valid enough if, in default of a treaty, matters on the Congo were likely for any length of time to remain *in statu quo*. That, however, is a very improbable contingency. The attention of the commercial world is becoming concentrated on the Congo, and the importance of its upper waters in the development of the trade of Central Africa is almost daily becoming more manifest. We print

elsewhere by a well-informed correspondent's account of Mr. Stanley's latest operations, from which it will be seen that the peaceful settlements of the International African Association are being pushed further and further into the interior; and it is certain that the growth of commercial intercourse and the extension of missionary enterprise and of other influences of civilization must sooner or later render necessary the control of the mouth of the great waterway by some organization of European origin and authority. The Congo Treaty is an attempt to provide this organization. It is not by any means an ideally perfect arrangement, but it is probably the best that could be made in the circumstances. The alternatives to it are all for various reasons either impracticable or inexpedient. It would hardly be thought convenient or desirable, even by those who object to the treaty, for England to occupy the territory herself, and its exclusive occupation by any other first-rate European Power is manifestly not to be thought of. There remain the alternatives of an International Commission similar to that which controls the navigation of the Danube and of a concession to Portugal, under suitable conditions and restrictions, of the sovereignty which she has long claimed but has never practically exercised. The first alternative was proposed by Lord Granville in the course of the negotiations, but was decisively vetoed by the Portuguese Government. It only remained, therefore, to accept the second, though in doing so Lord Granville was careful, as it seems to us, to concede nothing that could operate to the disadvantage of traders, or was likely to restrict the established freedom of international intercourse.

We are aware that this opinion is not shared by the many critics of the treaty. But their objections are based for the most part, not upon what the treaty contains, nor yet upon what it omits, but on the way in which it is thought likely to work. Portugal, in fact, is not trusted to carry out her part of the engagement. We cannot pretend to attach much weight to objections of this character. The sovereignty of Portugal, so far as it is admitted, is conceded, not in deference to the shadowy historical claims which Lord Granville distinctly declined to recognize, but in consideration of advantages secured to England and other nations by the treaty. If Portugal should fail to carry out the treaty in spirit as well as in letter, if she were to attempt to impose dues not sanctioned by the Treaty, or to withhold any of the advantages guaranteed by it, England on her part would be disengaged from the obligations to observe it, the treaty would fall to the ground, and with it would disappear the rights of sovereignty conceded by it to Portugal. Under the treaty, therefore, we get all we practically want, and we should still get as much by some other method if the treaty were violated by Portugal. For this reason we are not inclined to attach much weight to objections raised to the treaty on the score of distrust of Portugal. But a far more formidable objection is taken by Mr. Forster in the important letter which we print this morning. Mr. Forster points out that Lord Granville himself admitted in the course of the negotiations that there could be no advantage in concluding a treaty which would not be accepted by other Powers whose acceptance would be indispensable before it could come into operation. In view of this admission, it obviously becomes of great importance to ascertain how far the treaty

is likely to be accepted by those other Powers whose acceptance is indispensable to its successful operation. M. D'Antas, it is true, asserted in his reply to Lord Granville that the Portuguese Government had not the slightest fear that the sovereignty of Portugal, the treaty once made with Great Britain, would not be recognized by other nations; but Mr. Forster certainly shows some reason to doubt whether this conviction is likely to be sustained. Indeed, Lord Granville himself, so long ago as last June, expressed a doubt to the same effect. He pointed out that France was by no means inclined unconditionally to recognize the pretensions of Portugal, though he expressed a hope that the assent of all civilized Powers would be accorded to the provisions of such a convention as that under consideration. Even that hope has not as yet by any means been fulfilled. Mr. Forster calls attention pertinently enough to a telegram printed by us last week, in which it was stated that the Senate of the United States had passed a resolution recognizing the International African Association on the Congo, and intended as a protest against the Anglo-Portuguese treaty. Thus the acceptance of the treaty by the United States is certainly more than doubtful, and Mr. Forster further adduces reasons for thinking that neither France nor Holland is much more favorably disposed towards it.

It is obvious that, if such should really be the case, the treaty is at once deprived of its strongest recommendation, and of the greater part of its practical value. Lord Granville himself has pointed out "the futility of a mere dual arrangement between the two countries, unrecognized by other Powers," and if the treaty is thus reduced to a *caput mortuum* by the refusal of other Powers to recognize it, the

question of its intrinsic merits or demerits at once becomes one of very slight importance. At any rate, there is no little reason in Mr. Forster's demand that the views of the other Powers interested should be officially ascertained before the treaty is ratified. If the other Powers, in spite of present appearances to the contrary, should be found willing to recognize the treaty and accept its conditions, the fact will materially strengthen the case in favor of the treaty in this country. If, on the other hand, they should formally decline to recognize it, it will, on Lord Granville's own showing, hardly be worth while for this country to proceed with it. On the whole, we are inclined to think that Mr. Forster may have somewhat overrated the objections entertained to the treaty in other countries. It secures for them, as it does for ourselves, all the substantial advantages they enjoy at present, and it settles on a permanent and equitable basis some very awkward questions which might, in default of some specific arrangement, at any moment be raised. So long as the treaty is loyally carried out by Portugal, it harms no one and confers equal advantages on all. If it should not be loyally carried out, it would cease by that very circumstance to have any binding force, and matters would remain *in statu quo* until some alternative settlement could be devised. We fail to understand why considerations of this kind should not weigh as strongly with other Powers as, in our judgment, they are entitled to weigh in England. Mr. Forster, however, is evidently no friend to the treaty, and, therefore, he is, perhaps, somewhat inclined to overestimate the force of the objections entertained to it abroad. He would prefer that our Government should follow the course taken by the Senate of the United States and recognize the International

African Association. This, however, is a question which goes a good deal beyond that directly raised by the treaty now under consideration, and the Portuguese Government, which refused to entertain the proposal of an International Commission, is not very likely to be willing to waive its claims in favor of the International Association. It may, however, be conceded to Mr. Forster that the attitude assumed towards the treaty by other Powers interested is a very material element in the estimate of its value and importance to this country. As an international instrument acceptable to and recognized by all civilized Powers, it is a settlement to which it is not easy to take serious objection. But if it is to be reduced to a mere dual agreement unrecognized by other Powers, it is hardly worth while to consider whether it should be ratified or not.

(b.)

STANLEY'S OPERATIONS.

The significance of the latest news as to Mr. Stanley's doings and intentions may not be apparent to the ordinary reader without some explanation. He has, we are told, succeeded in planting a station at Stanley falls. To those who have read the stirring narrative of his journey down the great river in 1877, this must appear a wonderful feat. At the time of the recent visit of Mr. Johnston to the Congo, Bólóbó, some 80 miles to the north of Stanley pool, and $2\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ south of the equator, seems to have been the most remote station; but beyond that there are now at least three stations. One of these, Lukalela, is about 60 miles to the north, and another, Equator station, is just where the river leaves the equator in its course southwards. The third one is that of the foundation of which we have just heard, at Stanley falls, some 500 miles further into the interior

than the station last mentioned. To reach this remote point Mr. Stanley must have passed through the most dangerous part of the river, studded as are its richly wooded banks and islands with those tribes through which he and his followers had to run the gauntlet seven years ago. Beyond the equator the river expands in many places to a great width, its channel is studded with innumerable islands, and its shores fringed with an almost endless series of villages, some of the inhabitants of which were found to be armed with muskets. There is, for example, the famous village built of ivory, the "ferocious tribe" at Magala, and the "amiable people" of Bubunga. But, above all, Mr. Stanley must have succeeded in passing safely the mouth of the great river Aruwimi, where the naval battle occurred in February, 1877, so graphically described in his narrative and represented in his sketch.

The Stanley falls, at which the new station has been planted, are seven cataracts, which form the first interruption to the navigation below Nyangwé (memorable for the tragedy witnessed by poor Livingstone). It was between Nyangwé and the Stanley falls that the treacherous Tibbu Tib deserted Mr. Stanley just as the expedition was entering the country of reputed cannibals. Until Mr. Stanley furnishes us with details of his journey up the river, we cannot say how far he has been successful in winning the goodwill of the people whose villages fringe its banks. But if we may judge from his success up as far as Bólóbó, there is every reason to expect that it has not been less between that and Stanley falls. True, we hear rumors of hostilities and rebellions, but as these come solely from French and Portuguese sources they require confirmation, to put it mildly. It is not to be expected that Mr. Stanley

has accomplished his beneficent and hazardous mission without some display of force; but let us hope that this has been more passive than active. By the planting of this last station, Mr. Stanley may be said to have crowned and completed the mission with which he was intrusted by the King of the Belgians. Beyond the Stanley falls we know that the river is navigable to near Nyangwé, where it is still something like a mile wide. There is at least one fall to the north of Nyangwé, and, we fear, more than one between that and Lake Moero; and what now remains to be done is to trace definitely the upper course of the river and its numerous branches, many of which are at present conjectural. Perhaps the station at Stanley falls may be made the base of further explorations, though it is to be hoped that the German expedition under Dr. Wissmann will do much to complete the work of Livingstone, Stanley and Cameron.

Meantime, Mr. Stanley himself has resolved, before returning to Europe, to break up entirely new ground and solve a problem for which geographers at least will be grateful. He intends, in fact, to do what General Gordon would have done had he not, just when about to start for the Congo, been diverted to Khartoum. Mr. Stanley intends, we are curtly told, to reach one of the Egyptian stations in the Mambuttu country, on the Welle-Makua. One of the great problems of African hydrography is the course of this Welle-Makua, often referred to as Schweinfurth's Welle. Mr. Stanley himself was confident that the great northern tributary of the Congo, the Aruwimi, at the mouth of which occurred the naval engagement referred to above, was the Welle of Schweinfurth, and gave what seemed to him at the time cogent

reasons for his belief. But within the last four years an able Russian explorer, Dr. Junker, has been at work in this region, and the latest results of his explorations have just reached this country. He has had his headquarters in the Bahr-Gazelle province, ruled over by Lupton Bey, and thence has made several journeys to the south and southwest. No one, therefore, is better entitled than he to express an opinion on the hydrography of the region. He is convinced that the Welle does not belong to the Congo basin at all, but that it flows into the Shari, the great feeder of Lake Chad. The Welle rises in the hilly region to the northwest of Albert Nyanza, where many other streams have their source. So far as Dr. Junker has observed, it receives only two considerable tributaries from the north, although it is of great width and studded with islands. On the south it is fed by one large affluent, the Bomokandi, which itself rises quite close to the Welle, and runs for a long way parallel with the main river. This Bomokandi, however, is fed by many tributaries from the watershed, which lies at a considerable distance to the south. The watershed, Dr. Junker is evidently of opinion, is that which separates the system of the Congo from that of the Shari and Lake Chad. Although like many other African water-partings, it is scarcely distinguishable, yet it seems to separate two regions of very different characteristics. Dr. Junker had heard of a large river, the Nepoko, to the south of this water-parting, and determined to visit it. This he did, and reached it after four days' travel to the south of the Bomokandi, at which he conjectured to be about the middle of its course. It was almost equal in size to the Bomokandi, and had evidently travelled a long way

from the east. Instead of the many fine trees which everywhere clothe the banks of the rivers belonging to the Welle system on the north, the Nepoko and its tributaries flow through broad, flat swamps. A floating vegetation, very similar to what is met with in the Nile, pervades the swamps, and renders them passable for men but not for animals. Dr. Junker concludes his remarks by identifying the Nepoko with the Aruwimi of Stanley, and in another communication hopes to adduce proof that the Welle is the upper source of the Shari. It is not to be expected that Mr. Stanley has heard of Dr. Junker's discoveries, so that he is likely to start under the impression that the Aruwimi will lead to the Wellé. That is of little consequence. If he succeeds in traversing the country which lies between the Congo and the Mombuttu country, he will help materially to fill up a blank in the map of Africa. One of Lupton Bey's explorers a year or two ago discovered a large lake far to the west of Albert Nyanza, across which there is a considerable traffic in European goods. Whether this lake belongs to the Congo water system or to that of Lake Chad remains to be discovered; but it looks as if the Nepoko ran through it. We should say that Cassati, a recent Italian explorer in the same region, attaches the Nepoko to the Wellé.

The Welle region seems to be thickly populated with a great variety of broken tribes, belonging mainly to the Mombuttu stock. It is worthy of remark that, throughout these latitudes, neither to the east nor to the west did Dr. Junker find any definite territory occupied by the dwarfish people so often referred to under the name of Akka. The people were certainly met with in many parts, but without any fixed settlement, wandering about as

nomads among the other peoples. When Dr. Junker despatched the letters from which we have obtained this information he intended to make still another journey to the southwest. A short communication from him, dated October, 1883, states that he had then returned from this journey, but would not attempt to transmit his many charts and ethnographical collections to Europe, on account of the troubles in the Soudan. The probability is that he may take refuge in the south, where he has made many friends, and so it is not unlikely that he may meet with Mr. Stanley as the latter pursues his journey beyond the Congo.

(c.)

W. E. FORSTER, M. P., ON THE TREATY.

To the Editor of the Times :

SIR: I venture to trouble you with a few words on the much-discussed Congo Treaty, in consequence of the telegram in *The Times*, of Saturday, stating that "the Senate of the United States has passed a resolution recognizing the International Africa Association on the Congo river, and intended as a protest against the Anglo-Portuguese Treaty."

There are many disputed questions involved in this treaty, but I imagine there will be a general concurrence with Lord Granville's statement in his despatch, on March 15 of last year, to M. D'Antas, the Portuguese Minister, that "there could be no advantage in concluding a treaty which would not be accepted by other Powers whose acceptance would be indispensable before it could come into operation;" and Lord Granville rightly argues that "Portugal would be in no way benefited if England were to

stand alone in her recognition. The result of such isolated action would be that English traders would probably place themselves under the flag of a nation withholding its recognition, and the engagement between the two countries would be absolutely unproductive." (See Parliamentary Paper, 1884, p. 14.)

M. D'Antas, indeed, in his reply to this despatch, states that the Portuguese Government "has not the slightest fear the sovereignty of Portugal, the treaty once made with Great Britain, would not be recognized by any other nation," and adds that France, Holland and Germany have "more or less explicitly recognized" these rights of sovereignty; and I gather from many statements in the public press that this assertion by the Portuguese Government is taken for granted; but facts do not appear to me to warrant this conclusion.

First, let me observe that a recognition of Portugal's rights of sovereignty does not necessarily imply such concurrence with the treaty as Lord Granville considered indispensable; but as regards the sovereignty, what is the information we gain from the diplomatic correspondence? First, take Holland. The Dutch have important factories on the Congo. M. D'Antas gives as proof of the acknowledgment of their sovereignty by the Dutch Government a despatch in January of last year, in which the Dutch Minister claims the most favored nation clause; but this claim begins with these words: "It (the Dutch Government) hopes that Portuguese authority once established in these regions"—viz., the banks of the Congo—no special immunity will be granted to any other nation.

Now, in all discussions with regard to this treaty it must be kept in mind that the Portuguese authority is not estab-

lished on the Congo. Probably this is the first commercial treaty which is based, not on facts, but on possibilities. A few days ago Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice, in reply to a question I asked him in Parliament, informed me that "no portion of the territory in question is in the occupation of Portugal or under her rule."

I need not say that the treaty does not establish Portuguese authority, though it does sanction a claim of sovereignty, which hitherto we have persistently denied, over chiefs whose independence we have acknowledged by numerous treaties ; and I must here express my surprise that sanction has been given to the destruction of this independence without any attempt even to ascertain the feelings of these chiefs ; but I do not wish to dwell in this letter on this part of the question.

I am now dealing with facts rather than with our duty, and, so far as I can learn, the facts are that the natives are strongly adverse to Portuguese rule, and, as regards Holland, that the Dutch Government is unfettered by any past admission until or unless the Portuguese invasion be completed, and that there is, judging from the Dutch newspapers, a strong feeling in Holland against the Treaty. We already know the views of the Americans, who, though they have no factories on the Congo, have a growing trade with the natives on its banks.

There remains France. Lord Granville, in his rejoinder to M. D'Antas of June 1, uses these words :

"I will only add, in conclusion, that the information in possession of Her Majesty's Government as to the general recognition by other countries of the sovereignty of Portugal over the territory on the West Coast with which the convention deals does not support the view of Senhor Serpa, who considers that he may lay claim to the recognition of France. M. Challeml-Lacour, in a recent conversation with Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, distinctly denied that the pretensions of Portugal to that part of the coast are admitted by France."

Lord Granville concludes this despatch with this weighty statement :

“ I refer to this as showing that the argument of which I made use in my note of the 15th March, as to the futility of a mere dual arrangement between the two countries, unrecognized by other Powers, is strongly fortified by this statement of the views of the French Government. It is to be hoped, however, that the assent of all civilized Powers would be accorded to the provisions of such a convention as that now under consideration.”

This is the last allusion to foreign Powers by Lord Granville in the diplomatic correspondence lately presented to Parliament, and as there is no mention in the treaty of the concurrence of other Powers, I can only suppose that our Government imagined and hoped that its terms would in themselves secure their assent. But is this the case ?

The Dutch traders object as strongly on commercial grounds as do the Liverpool merchants and the Manchester manufacturers. We know the view taken in the United States, and I see it constantly stated that there are still strong objections in France to the Treaty. Surely, then, the views of the other Powers interested should be officially ascertained before the treaty be ratified.

Let me make one remark on the American resolution as telegraphed by your correspondent. It is stated that this resolution recognizes the International African Association on the Congo river, and I am informed that the United States Government will at once recognize its flag. Whatever comes of the treaty with Portugal, there would, to my mind, be many advantages in our Government taking the same course, but I will not now dwell upon them.

All that I now wish to press through your columns is that facts as they stand strongly enforce Lord Granville's declaration that the acceptance by other Powers of the Congo Treaty is indispensable before it comes into opera-

tion, that there is reason to believe that at present this acceptance by other Powers is not forthcoming, and that, therefore, the ratification of the treaty should, at any rate, be delayed.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

W. E. FORSTER.

80 Eccleston Square, April 14.

V.

HOW AFFAIRS ARE NOW CONDUCTED ON THE
CONGO.

From the United States Consular Reports.

No. 39.—MARCH, 1884.

REPORT BY U. S. CONSUL DU VERGE, OF ST. PAUL DE
LOANDO.

To settle at Congo, after having chosen a convenient location for one's affairs, the chiefs who are entitled to receive the duties or taxes are called. These taxes are in reality rents, as the negroes do not sell their lands, and do not give them up, except for an annual or monthly payment. The tenant has, therefore, a right to his land just so long as he pays his tax or rent, which consists, besides the payment of installation, of rations to the king amounting to a gallon of rum and eight yards of cotton cloth at the end of every month; and the persons whom the king is obliged to supply and for whom he is responsible, are: Lingster (translator); comprador (purchaser); mafuca (body servant); and four servants (mocas). The duty of a ling-

ster in a factory is to attend to the payment for produce, serve as interpreter in communicating with the natives, and keep his employer well informed with regard to the business done by his neighbors. The comprador serves to measure the produce, settle all difficulties arising from such measurements, and withdraw from each measure the countage (tax) going to the king. This countage consists of a plate of grain for every measure of the same, and about one or two gallons of oil to every measure of the same, which are set apart until there is sufficient to be measured, when the king goes to receive it. The mafuca oversees the work of the servants, and takes the place of the interpreter during the latter's absence. If one of these seven personages should, for any reason whatever, run away, the king is obliged to return him or replace him, or lose all rights to his rations, taxes, &c., until he has replaced the runaway, and paid the robbery, if the departure be in consequence of robbery.

The manners and customs which have been introduced among the negroes by certain Europeans have rendered it impossible to trade with the natives without corredores. These act as couriers, who, for a certain payment and a supply of gin and spirits, lay in wait for the natives along the routes they take when bringing in produce for trade, and conduct them to the employer's factory. It often occurs that the negroes follow these corredores of their own free will ; but it happens, also, that the negroes, when they will not follow them, are forced to go to the house of the employers ; or when the corredor knows there is not a certain kind of goods at his factory and conducts the negroes or trade to another merchant's factory, he is in like manner bound by the slaves of his employer ; for although slavery

is abolished, there is any number of slaves to be found, some in chains and others at liberty, in the Portuguese houses, as also in some foreign houses ; so that the corredor becomes the slave of the white man, unless his family is willing to pay an exorbitant price for his liberty. These abuses and violences are very often the reason why the trade route is often closed, as the natives, alarmed at the constant violence of the kroboys straggling along the routes, who hinder their free movements, have almost abandoned the Congo and go to sell their produce where they can move about freely, or they remain in their villages, where they cultivate only what is requisite and sufficient for their families. This is the reason why the Congo, on account of violence and injustice, from being one of the most productive rivers ten years ago, has become, comparatively speaking, completely abandoned by the natives.

The purchase of slaves continues at the values of £5 or £6 each. When they cannot be bought they are obtained in the following manner : An article or object of some kind is laid aside out of the way, but within reach of the negro, who at once steals it, and, being taken in *flagrante delicto*, becomes at once a slave. If he is a person of importance and is claimed by his relatives, or by the chiefs of the village to which he belongs, he is sometimes given up in exchange for two or three slaves, who take his place and lose thereby the liberty they enjoyed to become slaves in their village ; these are put in chains and made to work under the lash and the rod. Should any Government, therefore, seriously wish to correct or avoid any further slavery in chains, bondage, and unjust punishments and secure free trade and make the Congo as productive as it was about ten or fifteen years ago, the following must be

attended to: The corredores are the principal causes of the lack of trade, for, besides the wages which they receive and which can be given to the native trader, they embezzle the funds intrusted to their care. Some houses have more than 200 corredores; they receive a certain number of counters with numbers, corresponding to numbers with the name of the corredor entered in a book expressly kept for the purpose at the fetiche (the place where the trade is carried on and settled); the corredor generally receives 20 markers or counters for each case of gin or demijohn of spirits; each counter represents a measure. The corredor is present at the measuring, and accompanies the native trader, who receives an order for every measure that he measures at the fetiche; the corredor takes notes of these orders and sends a counter with each one, which is kept in a drawer until the number is complete. If the negro has done much trade through the intervention of the lingster, who pays in the fetiche, he will embezzle so much per measure. If the white man does not consent to this robbery, the negro is robbed of like amount when passing through the village of the corredor, and the corredor pays himself by not giving an account of the goods which he received to attract trade, and then goes to some other merchant. The kroboys are then immediately sent out on the different trade-routes, and the corredor is, in a very short time, taken and put in irons. The chief of the village is then made responsible for the corredor and must pay for him. If the chief takes no notice of it, men or women belonging to the same village are tied and made to keep with the corredor, who is in chains. The king and chiefs of the village are likewise responsible for the kroboys of the white man if any of them run away. For the simple rea-

son of the kroboys having passed through a village, the inhabitants thereof, although wholly innocent, are put in chains, and remain in chains until the kroman is returned, and until the villages through which he passed have paid for him.

This is the way affairs are carried on at present on the Congo and how slaves are procured at a moderate price, while it is publicly proclaimed at the same time that slavery is abolished.

L. DE R. DU VERGE,
Consul.

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,
St. Paul de Loando, 1883.

VI.

RECENT INFORMATION FROM S. E. CONGO AND
STATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL AFRICAN
ASSOCIATION.

BRUXELLES, 7 Rue Bréderode. }
April 23d, 1884. }

DEAR SIR: The mail of Zanzibar, which has just arrived in Bruxelles, brought us letters from Messrs. Cambier, Storms and Beinc.

The health of the three agents is excellent. The letter of Mr. Storms is dated Karéma, January 17th, 1884.

He tells us that Mr. Giraud, ensign of a French vessel on a voyage of exploration in the region of the Great Lakes, arrived in Karéma at the beginning of December, 1883, and

that he intends remaining until the end of the rainy season, that is, until the middle of March.

Mr. Storms informs us that he has forwarded to us, through Sef ben Rachid, an Arab, under whose direction the caravans of the Association between Karéma and the coast have been placed, a collection of specimens of natural history.

Mr. Giraud has addressed to the International African Association a letter, of which, we think, you will be pleased to receive the annexed copy.

Yours, &c.,

STRAUCH,

General Secretary.

CHIEF-JUSTICE DALY, LL.D.,

President American Geographical Society.

KARÉMA, Jany. 14, 1884.

DEAR SIR: I will not let this mail go without sending you a token of remembrance and gratitude.

I arrived here a month and a half ago, and am resting from my past fatigues, in the company of the excellent Mr. Storms, whose temperament and cheerfulness are not likely to give way under the annoyances of this horrid continent.

I could fill pages should I attempt to speak to you of the frank and cordial hospitality that, up to this time, I have received from your agents.

At Zanzibar, Captain Cambier has, so to say, fitted up my expedition; here, Mr. Storms is giving me a powerful aid in reorganizing it. Should I meet, on the Congo, towards which I am directing my steps, any more of your

hospitable stations ; instead of my remaining the organizer of my expedition, it will then become the work of the officers to whom you have had the kindness to recommend me.

My voyage, although, comparatively speaking, very fortunate so far, has failed to produce the results I anticipated. At Banguélo, where I expected to see a lake, I found but an immense marsh, through which I waded for nearly a month. The Luapula, which geographers say comes from the northwest of the lake, flows in a precisely opposite direction. I navigated it with the eight men who manned my boat, whilst the rest of my caravan went by land to wait for me at Cazembe's. From that day there began for me a life of misery which lasted as far as Tanganyika. The Luapula, as I said before, flows from the south of the lake, and before taking the direction which it follows to the Lunda, runs for more than 100 miles to the Southwest. It is at the elbow formed by these two directions, that I was stopped short, one day, a few hundred metres from the powerful cataract of Mombottouta. Harassed for the past three days on both shores by a thousand howling natives, ready to fall upon me, I could do nothing with my eight men, cut off as I was by this great cataract. I had to surrender, and abandon one-half of my material and my unfortunate boat. To think that I had crossed in it, the Oussagara, had carried it over the whole range of the mountains to the north of the Nyassa, and that, after scarcely twenty-five days of navigation I was compelled to abandon it ! It was heartrending ! The day I had to leave it was, without exception, the saddest of my voyage.

I was taken to Mere-Mere, chief of the Nonaoumis, who lives, say, ten days' journey towards the north, in about

the latitude of Benguelo. There I remained two months a prisoner, with my eight men, in a state of starvation.

How I succeeded one day to join my caravan at Cazembe's, time fails me to relate! A happy day it was, but of short duration.

Cazembe, taking advantage of my absence, had seized half the guns of my men. Emboldened by my powerlessness, he compelled me to buy ivory with the four unfortunate loads of stuffs which were left me. Half disarmed, without provisions, I plunged in the "pori," as I declared war against him. I remained there one month and a half, before reaching Tanganyika, feeding my men with the game I killed on the way. During all that time my men, who behaved bravely, could not find a single handful of flour to buy. Itahona, which is very thinly populated, is now desolated by a frightful famine.

Moero, upon which I passed four days, shooting and fishing, is a large, fine lake, well encased between its two shores.

At Tenduc, where I reached Tanganyika, I found two English missionaries who facilitated me as much as it was in their power in sending all my people to Karéma. I had suffered much, it is true; but at Karéma one recovers from everything.

The station has cost you many sacrifices, but you may well be proud of it. If the Association maintains there a permanent agent, there is no doubt that, within twenty years, Karéma will have completely supplanted Ujiji and Unyaniembé. Besides the comfort and improvements brought to the station by travellers, the position of Karéma, through the gradual receding of the lake, will become unrivalled on lake Tanganyika. I have taken a few photo-

graphs here and intend to take a good many more. Mr. Storms will send them to you.

I need not say anything about my health. Since I left the coast, I have not opened my medicine chest. Mr. Storms is not less fortunate. He intends writing to you about it. We are two wonders in the centre of this dreaded Africa.

Why does not the Association abandon the pestiferous route of Unyaniembé, *the only unhealthy place in tropical Africa*, with the exception of the coasts; the more so that you have another one, superb, and just as short, by Uhihe, Usasa and Fipa. Unyaniembé is close by. The day when the station shall need it, it will be but child's play to send a caravan there.

Pardon me for giving you my advice so frankly upon such a matter. If I take the liberty to do so, it is because I am personally convinced that it is owing to my having avoided the Unyaniembé route that I have not had occasion to swallow two grains of quinine since I left the coast. I intend remaining at Karéma until the middle of March. I am expecting at present a caravan which I sent to Unyaniembé for revictualling, which will enable me, first, to return to Mr. Storms the stuffs which he lent me, and then to resume my voyage towards the southwest.

Mr. Storms kindly offers to send me in his "doon" to Mpala, your new station. From there, my intention is to cross Marungu, Loualaba, and then to reach Leopoldville, by following about the 6° of latitude.

Yours, &c.,

GIRAUD.

VII.

From the London Times, May 16, 1884.

STANLEY'S LAST EXPEDITION.

FROM THE JOURNAL KEPT BY MR. STANLEY DURING HIS
RECENT JOURNEY UP THE CONGO TO STANLEY FALLS.

These extracts are somewhat meagre, but they enable us to supplement the information already given with a few details of interest. Mr. Stanley left Leopoldville on August 23 last, and after touching at intermediate points reached Equator Station on September 29. Here he remained till October 17, when he embarked with M. Roger and 68 men on board three steamers and a whaleboat. At Uranga, a large village on the left bank, at the mouth of the important river Lulemaga, an alliance was made with the natives. Similar alliances, accompanied with exchange of blood, were made with the chief at Bangala, Rubunga (left bank), and Yambinga (north bank), which the flotilla reached on November 8. The crisis of the voyage occurred on November 15, when the party reached the mouth of the dreaded Aruwimi, where the great river fight took place on Mr. Stanley's first journey. Anchor was cast on the right bank in front of the villages, from which numerous war canoes sallied forth. The great war drums were beaten and the banks were covered with armed men, but only two canoes approached the steamers. Mr. Stanley's party established their camp on the edge of the river, and quietly remained in full view smoking. After about an hour's anxious waiting, Mr. Stanley went on board, and the three steamers passed in front of the villages at about 50 yards distant. The effect was magical;

the noisy steam rushing out of the funnels, the revolutions of the paddles, the agitation of the water, the rapidity of progress without the use of oars, the white men on the cabin roofs sending words and gestures of peace and friendship—all completely nonplussed the simple and barbarous people. A complete understanding was established, and for two days negotiations were carried on. The people told Stanley that Arabs from the Soudan visited them and sold them pearls, and that on the other side of the Congo there was a warlike tribe, the Bahunga, who attacked them and killed many of their people. Before leaving Mr. Stanley steamed some distance up the Aruwimi. The river in population was savage but not hostile. At the village of Yambunga, lat. $2^{\circ} 13' N.$, the navigation is obstructed by rapids, so that it is found the Aruwimi will be of little service as a trade route. The river is here known as the Bi yeré, further up the Berré, and then the Werré, which Mr. Stanley thinks is evidently Schweinfuth's Welle. But we showed the other day that Dr. Junker has all but proved that the Welle joins the Shari, and that the Nepoko on the South of the watershed is probably the Upper Aruwimi.

Proceeding up the Congo, Mr. Stanley met with a flotilla of about 1,000 canoes on the 24th of November, but they made no hostile demonstration. Still further up, the Mawembe villages were found to be devastated and burnt, and the poor remains of the people crowded on the banks ready to migrate westwards. An armed band had attacked the villages the previous night, killed many of the men, and carried off the women and children as slaves. On December 1 the Stanley falls were reached, and the natives were soon conciliated. This station, the furthest inland on

the Congo, was established on the north shore of Wana-Rusani Island, which stretches into the middle of the river. The island is fertile, and healthy, with about 1,500 inhabitants, and easy of access both from below and above. It is situated about 10 miles north of the equator, and about a couple of miles below the first of the Stanley falls. The chiefs all accepted the flag of the Association. After erecting the station buildings and leaving one of his lieutenants in charge with thirty Zanzibaris and Houssas, Mr. Stanley began his return journey on December 10. Several other points were touched at and treaties concluded. But at more than one place Mr. Stanley had to settle difficulties which had arisen between the chiefs of the station and the natives, and in one case, at least, had to depose one of his lieutenants for indiscreet conduct. It is to be wished we had been favored with further details as to their troubles, which it may be feared are sometimes serious; indeed, if the reports from Portuguese and French sources are to be trusted, some of the employees of the Association must be more than indiscreet. At present it is impossible to obtain an accurate idea of the real state of matters. Mr. Stanley returned to Leopoldville on January 20 last, after an absence of four months twenty-six days, completely exhausted.

Meantime M. de Brazza has not been idle. According to last reports, he was at Brazzaville, had concluded many treaties with petty chiefs between the Congo and Gaboon, and was seeking for a more direct route than that of the Alima and the Ogové between the Congo and the French possessions. He had already created twenty-two stations between Cape Lopez and Brazzaville, and intended to create ten more. The Ogové had been completely surveyed, as well as the country between that river and the Alima.

While Mr. Stanley, as the agent of the International African Association, has been re-exploring and planting stations on the Lower and Middle Congo as far as Stanley falls, another explorer has been working from the other end of the great artery, with a view, if possible, of completing our knowledge of the river from its source to the sea. This explorer is a young French midshipman, M. V. Giraud, who left Zanzibar in December, 1882, direct for Lake Bangweolo, on the swampy shore of which, at Ilala, Livingstone died on his knees. M. Giraud has made good use of his time, and a letter from him has been received at Brussels, dated from the Belgian station at Karéma, on the east shore of Lake Tanganyika, January 14, 1884. The fact that a letter has been able to reach Europe from the heart of Africa in three months is surely a sign of rapid progress; even so recently as Livingstone's days we could hardly have hoped to have received such a communication in less than a year.